rate for agriculture to a single digit rate of note more than 9% per annum on crop loans upto a ceiling of Rs. 50,000/-. This rate will benefit most of the crop loan account holders and will cover almost all the small and marginal farmers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Plantation of Jatropha and Karanja

558. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Oilseed and Vegetable Oils Development Board (NOVOD) has initiated programme for plantation of Jatropha curcas and Karanja for bio-diesel production in various States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details of the programme;

(c) whether the programme is being implemented in Jharkhand and Bihar also;

(d) if so, the details of infrastructure set up/proposed to be set up particularly for identification of suitable lands, dissemination of education/ training to the farmers, raising awareness, etc. in the said two States; and

(e) the details of land area presently covered under Jatropha/Karanja cultivation and potential expansion thereof during the next five years in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board has initiated the programme for plantation of Jatropha curcas and Karanja for bio-diesel production in various States and the Union Territories.

The National Oilseeds and Vegetable Oils Development Board has sanctioned programmes for plantation of Jatropha in 8410 hectares and Karanja in 875 hectares in different States during 2004-05. Similarly, 1200 hectares of Jatropha plantation has been sanctioned for the States of

Gujarat, Jharkhand and Maharashtra during 2005-06 as promotional programme.

(c) and (d) The programme is being implemented in Jharkhand and Bihar also.

The scheme "Integrated Development of Tree Borne Oilseeds" being implemented by National Oilseeds & Vegetable Oils Development (NOVOD) Board from 2004-05 has following components under which assistance is being provided:

(A) Promotional Programmes:

(i) Development of elite planting material and model plantation;

(ii) Transfer fo technology;

(iii) Research and Development;

(iv) Establishment of TBO gardens;

(B) Back Ended Credit Linked Subsidy Programmes;

(i) Installation of pre-processing and processing facilities;

(ii) Commercial plantation.

There is no provision for setting up of infrastructure particularly for identification of suitable lands, dissemination of education/training to the farmers, raising awareness etc. under the scheme. However, five farmers' training and two trainers' training programmes have been sanctioned for State of Bihar. Besides, seven farmers' trainings and two trainers' training programmes have also been sanctioned for the State of Jharkhand during 2005-06.

(e) Presently 300 hectares area has been covered in Jharkhand under Jatropha & Karanja cultivation. The potential for jatropha cultivation in these States is 18.60 lakhs hectares as per the assessment of Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.

NCF recommendation

†559. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Farmers has

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.